Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC, EI

SUBJECT: IRISH REACTION TO OVERVIEW ORGANIZATIONAL

SESSION

REF: USUN 606

1. DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNSELLOR RESPONSIBLE FOR NORTH/SOUTH AFFAIRS (DECLAN CONNOLLY) VOLUNTEERED SOME OBSERVATIONS ON OVERVIEW, BUT POINTED OUT THAT HIS REMARKS WERE PERSONAL AND INFORMAL AND THAT NO "OFFICIAL" GOI REACTION HAD BEEN DETERMINED. CONNOLLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAID THAT IMPRESSION HERE OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING WAS ONE OF GENERAL SATISFACTION. ALGERIAN CHAIRMAN HAD PROVED "QUITE EFFECTIVE" AND HIS MANAGEMENT REASONABLY IMPARTIAL, WHICH AUGURED WELL FOR SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS.

2. ON OTHER HAND, THE ARRAY OF SENSITIVE NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES WHICH HAVE THE POTENTIAL FOR DISRUPTING

FUTURE MEETINGS PRECLUDES ANY COMPLACENCY THAT THEY WILL DEVELOP IN POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE FASHION. CONNOLLY WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THE BREAKDOWN OF THE UNIDO DISCUSSIONS (FROM WHICH HE HAS JUST RETURNED) COULD HAVE NEGATIVE REPERCUSSIONS FOR THE SUBSTANTIVE OVERVIEW MEETINGS, BOTH IN TERMS OF ATMOSPHERE AND ISSUES.

3. GOI WILL COMMENCE PREPARATIONS FOR MAY MEETING DURING NEXT TWO WEEKS. IRISH DO HAVE ACTIVE INTEREST IN OVERVIEW AND NORTH/SOUTH DEVELOPMENTS GENERALLY. IRISH POLICY, OF COURSE, WILL BE DETERMINED IN CONSULTATION WITH THEIR EC PARTNERS. SHANNON

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